PARBICA 17: Archives Engaged: Personal, professional, political

RESOLUTIONS OF PARBICA’s 17TH GENERAL CONFERENCE

On the occasion of PARBICA’s 17th General Conference from 4-7 September 2017 in Pacific Harbour, Fiji, with professional practitioners and leaders of institutions and associations responsible for records and archives throughout the Pacific.

Resolutions

1. PARBICA members are instrumental in leading change in their respective countries through their role in driving effective records management for good governance and keeping the memory of their nation.

2. Reconfirmed that strong systems for the creation and management of records and the preservation of archives are key foundations of sustainable economic development and good business practice, as well as essential to support good governance and collective memory in all countries, states and territories in the Pacific region.

3. Noted that the potential of digital records is only as good as the recordkeeping skills used to care for them.

4. Reaffirmed the importance of working in partnership with national, regional and international organisations to develop sound recordkeeping and archival systems throughout the Pacific region.

5. Resolved to share more success stories and business cases for the benefit of all members.

6. Acknowledged that archives and records management contributes directly to the principles of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and resolved to use these in advocacy work.

Memory of the Pacific

7. Encouraged members to continue to demonstrate the value of their collections by making full use of significance methodology.

8. Encouraged members to investigate setting up their own national Memory of the World committees in order to raise the profiles of their collections.

9. Acknowledged that Pacific nations are celebrating International Archives Day and called on all Pacific countries, states and territories to celebrate International Archives Day on June 9 in order to raise awareness of the role of archives in the Pacific.

10. Noted that partnerships such as those with SEAPAVAA, PARBICA and the ICA can greatly improve funding and staffing opportunities.

11. Called on Pacific archivists to look for ways to record and preserve indigenous traditions.

12. Noted that online presence is a key way to make collections visible around the Pacific and the world and called on archivists to investigate collaboration opportunities for access to shared digital collections and descriptive metadata.

Agility and Readiness

13. Noted that Pacific archivists face challenges and can be seriously under-resourced; and called on archivists to look out for opportunities to collaborate with each other and
potential partner organisations, and actively look for opportunities for funding and resources.

14. PARBICA aspires to be an exemplar organisation through its governance, accountability to members and effectiveness in supporting development in the Pacific and increasingly using digital technologies to achieve these aspirations.

**Training and Education**

15. Resolved to build on the work that has gone into making training resources and materials available online through the PARBICA website.

16. Reaffirmed the value of international work placements, attachments and staff swaps as a way for Pacific archivists and recordkeepers to gain experience in archiving and recordkeeping and strengthen relationships.

17. Acknowledged the work that PARBICA members have done to use and promote the Recordkeeping for Good Governance toolkit and resolved to continue to promote its use.

18. Resolved to finalise and publish new toolkit modules on disaster preparedness, response and recovery, vital records, and assessing significance during the next term.

19. Resolved to determine how to contextualise the Toolkit for each country/organisation.

**Recommendations to the PARBICA Bureau**

20. Urged the PARBICA Bureau to encourage non-member countries, states, territories and institutions in the Pacific to join PARBICA and share in the benefits of membership.

21. Noted the emerging theme from PARBICA 17 that archives are only real when they are engaged with, and urged PARBICA Bureau to engage with members to maximise this.

**Appreciation and Acknowledgements**

22. Gave thanks to the National Archives of Fiji for their warm and welcoming hospitality and for hosting PARBICA 17 in their beautiful country.

23. Thanked the University of the South Pacific’s Records Management Team for their outstanding service during the conference.

24. Thanked the keynote speakers Dr Jo Hanisch and Opeta Alefaio for their inspiring keynote addresses.

25. Thanked all speakers, workshop convenors and support staff for their contribution to the conference.

26. Expressed deep appreciation to the following supporters without whose generous support the conference could not have succeeded:
   - National Archives of Australia
   - Public Record Office Victoria
   - Australian Society of Archivists
   - Monash University
   - Steamatic
   - Records and Information Management Professionals Association
   - Archives New Zealand
   - University of the South Pacific
   - InfocentriK

27. Expressed appreciation to the staff of The Pearl South Pacific for their efforts in hosting us.

28. Acknowledged the successful crowdfunding campaign to bring Simiang Bunem to PARBICA 17 from Papua New Guinea.
29. Acknowledged the success of the silent auction to raise funds to bring Pacific Island delegates to PARBICA 18 and resolved to repeat this effort.
30. Expressed deep appreciation to staff from the National Archives of Australia who provided outstanding support in developing PARBICA 17.
31. Expressed thanks to the Chief Archivist and Archives New Zealand for their continuing support of the Secretariat.
32. Expressed deep appreciation to Helen Walker for her six years of service to PARBICA.
33. Expressed deep appreciation to Talei Masters for her service to PARBICA.